

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO	
10/008,106	11/09/2001	Paul A. Crawford	FMCC:014USR1	FMCC:014USR1 6485	
7590 02/17/2004		EXAMINER			
Mark T Garrett Esq			NICHOLSON, ERIC K		
Fulbright & Jaworski LLP 600 Congress Avenue			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
Suite 2400 Austin, TX 78701			3679		
			DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
•	10/008,106	CRAWFORD, PAUL A.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Eric K Nicholson	3679				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period f r Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1: after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period v - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 De	ecember 200 <u>3</u> .					
	action is non-final.					
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims						
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdraw 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	vn from consideration.					
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accomplicated any not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examine	epted or b) objected to by the Eddrawing(s) be held in abeyance. See ion is required if the drawing(s) is obj	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). jected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).				
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:	(PTO-413) ate ratent Application (PTO-152)				

Art Unit: 3679

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 12, 2003 has been entered.

In regards to the presently amended claims and any previous amendments to the claims which present corrections to errors not covered by an oath or declaration for example any error corrected after the filing of all declarations currently in the reissue application applicant must submit a supplemental oath or declaration prior to allowance stating that every such error of arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1).

<u>Drawings</u>

In light of the declaration submitted by Mr. Paul Crawford reconsideration of the new matter rejection is given, while the proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 11-09-01 are still disapproved since they do not illustrate a retaining ring in a groove as discussed in Mr. Paul Crawford's declaration. As stated before the previous changes made to the lead lines appear to be acceptable for approval however new drawings are required to illustrate the snap ring inserted into a groove in the retainer segments. It is further

Art Unit: 3679

noted that according to claims 4,8 and 12 the drawings are objected to since these claims require the end connectors to be threaded however since they depend from claims with a retainer segments been claimed there appears to be no drawings showing the combination of claims 4 8 and 12 having both threaded end connectors and retainer segments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's prior art figures I and 2 in view of U.S. patent 5,047,021 to Utterberg. The prior art figures I and 2 illustrate applicant's claimed invention with a pup joint having a length of pipe 12 having an outside diameter; an integrally formed female sub 16 connected to a first end of the length of

pipe, the female sub 16 including a conical sealing surface 20, an outer surface formed adjacent the conical sealing surface and external threads 22 formed on the outer surface; an integrally formed male sub 14 connected to the distal end of the length of pipe, the male sub 14 including a section having an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the length of pipe (as pertains to claims 9-12), the male sub also including a forward shoulder 32 extending radially outwardly there from and a spherical sealing surface 18 adjacent the forward shoulder which is adapted to mate with and seal against the conical sealing surface of another such pup joint; a nut 24 having an internal surface, internal threads 26 formed on the internal surface and a rearward shoulder 30 extending radially inwardly from the internal surface; one or more retainer segments 28 positioned between the rearward shoulder 30 of the nut and the forward shoulder 32 of the male sub for restricting axial movement of the nut relative to the male sub in a first direction. Further, as argued by applicant, the prior art figure 1 shows a retainer ring in a groove of the retainer segments 28. As pertaining to claims 4,8 and 12, according to prior art Fig. 2 in the specification it is known that the male sub can be threaded onto the distal end of the length of pipe, and the female sub can be threaded onto the first end of the length of pipe.

The prior art figure 1 differs from the claimed present invention in that the pipe does not include a retention shoulder, such as applicant's retention shoulder 142, to keep the nut and retainer segment assembly from sliding along the pipe away from the male sub end. Utterberg illustrates (figs. 4-7) and teaches a similar end connection to that of prior art figures 1 and 2 and

Application/Control Number: 10/008,106

Art Unit: 3679

shows also that it is old and well known to provide a non-removable and single forged

constructed retention shoulder 308 extending radially outwardly from the section of the male

pipe member 300 the retention shoulder positioned rearward of the forward shoulder 332 of the

nut 320 to restrict axial movement of the nut 320 along the pipe 300, see column 5, lines 36-47.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to provide the length of pipe with a retention shoulder such as taught by shoulder 308 of

Utterberg in order to limit the range of slidable movement of the coupling nut and retainer

segments along the pipe. See column 5, lines 36-47.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of

the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. Note the non removable retention shoulder 28 to keep the nut 42 from sliding along

the pipe 20 in U.S. patent 4,452,473 to Ruschke and note the non removable retention shoulder 3

to keep the nut 2 from sliding along the pipe 1 in U.S. patent 4,266,815 to Cross.

Page 5

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

ekn 2/12/04 W@H

Eric K. Nicholson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600